



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Senate approves O'Mara's resolution commemorating the 45th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2015 (Updated)

THOMAS F. O'MARA April 21, 2015

| ISSUE: **EARTH DAY**



Albany, N.Y., April 22—The New York State Senate today approved a Legislative Resolution sponsored by Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C-Big Flats), chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, commemorating the 45th Anniversary of **Earth Day** on April 22, 2015.

O'Mara was named the **committee's new chairman** in late January at the start of this year's legislative session.

It was 45 years ago, on April 22, 1970, when then-United States Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin called for a nationwide environmental teach-in and founded the **first Earth Day**,

which is now observed by more than 500 million people worldwide and national governments in 175 countries.

As part of New York State's celebration of **Earth Week** from April 19-26, including today's Earth Day observance, the Senate acted on a Senate Resolution (**S.R.1427**) sponsored by O'Mara which reads, in part, "Sustaining the quality and the productivity of our natural environment, through a balanced, diligent, fair and serious sense of stewardship and conservation, is the foundation of a healthy society and a robust economy best achieved through a far-reaching, diverse network of decision makers working in unison for common goals and a common good to enhance, preserve and protect the natural resources, environmental beauty and the ethics of conservation which have long defined our State."

One of the Senate's key committee assignments, **O'Mara said that as chairman he will continue the committee's focus** on numerous regional and statewide challenges including: soil and water conservation and quality; energy-related demands including the development and promotion of cleaner sources of energy; open space and preservation initiatives impacting farmland, forests and other state resources; brownfields cleanup; solid and hazardous waste management; invasive and endangered species; and fish and wildlife.

"I appreciate having the confidence of the Senate leadership to undertake this critical assignment," said O'Mara, who has served as a member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee since 2011. "These challenges and issues confronting New York are vital to the overall environmental and economic well-being of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, and the state as a whole."

O'Mara said that he will remain committed to working with his legislative colleagues and the governor to strike a reasonable, sensible balance between environmental conservation and protection, and the need to spark and strengthen economic growth and private-sector job creation regionally and statewide.

He said that environmental conservation- and protection-related issues have long been a focus of his service in the Legislature. His legislative district encompasses the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions where agriculture, including the hub of the state's wine-and-grape industry in the Finger Lakes, and tourism are economic foundations.